GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1748
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2016
Land Boundary Agreement with Bangladesh
Chavan Shri Ashok Shankarrao

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) signed in 1974 that provides for exchange of territories between India and Bangladesh has raised the question of migration and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there is any proposal to give enclave dwellers the option of choosing the country they would like to live in and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has discussed the matter with the Governments of border States such as Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and West Bengal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the State Governments in this regard?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) to (d) The Indian enclaves in Bangladesh and Bangladeshi enclaves in India were exchanged pursuant to the Land Boundary Agreement, 1974 and its Protocol of 2011 and stood transferred with effect from the midnight of July 31, 2015. The residents of the enclaves who were included in the joint headcount finalized and exchanged by Government of India and Bangladesh in July 2011 and children born to them after that date were offered the right to retain the nationality they had before the actual transfer of territory. Based on the option taking survey which was carried out in July 2015 by the two Governments, 979 persons exercised this right to move to India. No further movement is anticipated. Government of India has approved a compensation package of Rs 1005.99 crore for rehabilitation of the returnees from the erstwhile Indian enclaves from Bangladesh and creation and up-gradation of infrastructure in former Bangladeshi enclaves in India and in Coochbehar district in West Bengal. This package has been worked out after due consultation with Government of West Bengal.